

Appl. No.: 09/720,173
Amdt. dated 12/27/2007
Reply to Office action of July 27, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 5-8, 16, 18-24, and 29-34 are allowed. Claims 9, 11, 12, 26, 27, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 94/04419 to Martin-Cocher et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,680,207 to Murray.

Applicant sincerely appreciates the allowance of the method claims. It is noted that the Office Action was silent with respect to Claim 15. Applicant assumes this was an oversight, and that method Claim 15 is also allowed.

While Applicant continues to maintain for the previously stated reasons that the cited references do not teach or suggest a plastics material member as claimed in the rejected product claims, it is desired not to delay the issuance of a patent for the method claims. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled the rejected product claims. A continuation application directed to the product claims is being filed substantially concurrently herewith.

All pending method claims, being allowed, are now in condition for issuance.

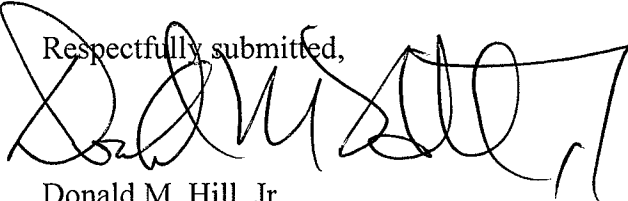
Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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